Josh Brunner

3-5-11

Dear Frank Buckles,

Your service and all of the other veterans’ service is and has always been very important in keeping our freedoms. For nearly 250 years people like you have allowed Americans to keep all of the rights and freedoms that we have been given in the constitution. Because of your bravery and courage other citizens of other countries have been able to gain and keep their freedom. Service men and women like you have sacrificed through their loyal contributions. And in doing so have helped keep peace in the world in trying to end wars and terrorism and violence.

I cannot imagine what kind of life I would have today without your devotion to keeping our freedoms. You fought and helped win wars that have allowed me to have an education, have free speech, live in a democratic society, and so many other freedoms we take for granted daily. Without people like you, who knows where America would be today? How many of the rights we have today would we even still have? Would we even still be a democracy?

In social studies I’ve learned many facts surrounding World War I. In 1914 the WWI began as turmoil began to escalate in European countries. Mainly because of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who was heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. At first the United States president at the time, Woodrow Wilson had declared that we would not become involved and we would remain neutral. However, after a German U-boat attacked and sunk the British Ocean liner, Lusitania in 1915, with over 100 Americans on board the President told Germany to stop all U-boat attacks or we would become directly involved. Since Germany did not want America against them, they did stop, but only for two years. Once Germany sent the Zimmerman telegram telling Mexico to attack the U.S., we decided to declare war on Germany. In Georgia alone, nearly 100,000 troops were trained at one of our three military camps/forts (Benning, Gordon, McPherson) for the war. To help with the war effort, our textile mills made uniforms, women began working outside the home at the Red Cross, people planted Victory Gardens to allow more food to be shipped to the soldiers, and railroads shipped supplies to ports. Most importantly, it is a very sad fact that 3,000 young Georgians lost their lives in WWI.